

### **ABSTRACT**

The presently claimed invention provides methods, compositions, and apparatus  
5 for studying nucleic acids. Specifically, the present invention provides a novel  
enrichment and labeling strategy for ribonucleic acids. In one embodiment, the invention  
provides enriching for a population of interest in a complex population by diminishing  
the presence of a target sequence. In a further embodiment, the invention can be used to  
reproducibly label and detect extremely small amounts of nucleic acids.

CONFIDENTIAL - U.S. GOVERNMENT EDITION